



**By John Mathews**

The federal government is the smallest employer of the three types of government (federal, state, local). Its roles and duties involve administering federal laws, managing public federal lands, providing postal services, supplying transportation/public safety services, collecting taxes, and serving an important role in the nation's defense.

### **How Many?**

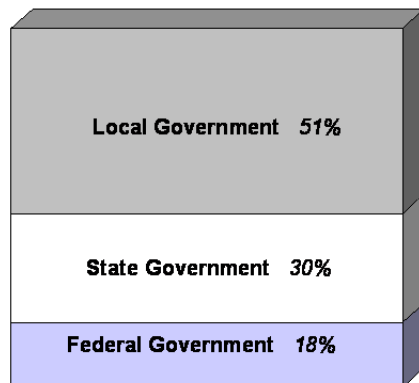
Roughly 35,500 employees are on federal payrolls in Utah. While many of these jobs are concentrated along the Wasatch Front,

many are not. Some federal agencies are responsible for managing the vast public lands around our big state. In fact, in many rural areas, the federal government—primarily the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management—is a significant employer, and spends many important dollars into the local economies.

In Utah, the major federal agencies include the Department of Defense, Agriculture, Interior, Treasury, and the Post Office.



## **2002 Utah Government Employment**



### **Utah Government Employment**

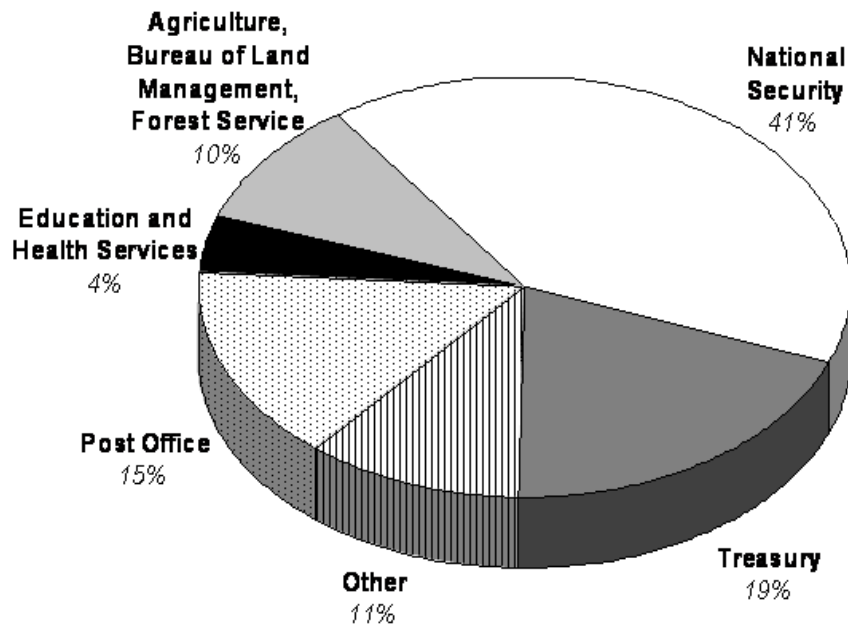
Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

### **Who's Biggest?**

By far the largest federal employer in Utah is Hill Air Force Base, located in Davis County. It accounts for twice as many jobs as any other federal agency in Utah. Roughly 13,000 civilian federal employees work at Hill Air Force Base.

The Internal Revenue Service (Department of the Treasury) in Ogden claims nearly 20 percent of the total federal workforce. The Postal Service is a major employer also, with some 5,400 employees. The Forest Service, and other Department of Agriculture branches, and the Bureau of Land Management—charged with managing federal lands—make up 10 percent of total federal workers.

## Where Utah Federal Employees Worked in 2002



**Federal Employment: 35,500**

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

In Utah, the federal government infused \$1.6 billion in payroll dollars into the economy for the 35,500 workers in 2002. The average annual pay for a federal worker in Utah was \$45,000 compared to an average annual wage of \$30,000.

### Think Again

If you think federal government is getting too big, then absorb these statistics: In 1960, 10.7 percent of total employment in Utah was federal. By 2002, that figure fell to 3.3 percent. The share of employment accounted for by the federal government has dropped steadily over the last three decades.



For more on government in Utah see:  
<http://www.utah.gov/government/index.html>  
<http://www.fedstats.gov/>